

Remarks

Claims 37-62 are pending. Claims 37-62 been added. Claims 1-36 have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of any of the canceled claims in one or more divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part applications.

The subject matter encompassed by the new claims is disclosed by the instant specification. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

The Restriction Requirement

In the Office Action, restriction is required to one of the following groups of invention:

- I) Claims 23-28 and 35, drawn to the technical feature of a peptide carrier conjugate comprising an OMPC and a plurality of modified peptides;
- II) Claims, 1-22 and 31-34, drawn to the technical feature of a method for making a peptide conjugate comprising OMPC and peptides;
- III) Claims 29-30, drawn to the technical feature of a method of inducing an immune response in a mammal using the product of Group I; and
- IV) Claim 36, drawn to the technical feature of a method for determining the favorable pI range for conjugation of peptides to a carrier; and

In order to be fully responsive, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group II (claims 1-22 and 31-34), to prosecute in the present application without prejudice to prosecution of the subject matter of the non-elected groups in subsequent applications.

Additionally, the Examiner has required an election of species should Group II be elected. Accordingly, Applicants elect the following species:

- i) Haemophilus influenza as the pathogen;

- ii) sSMCC as the reagent for conjugation; and
- iii) OMPC as the carrier.

Conclusion

It is believed that the claims now pending are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is earnestly requested.

Authorization

No fee is believed to be due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to deposit account 13-2755.

Respectfully submitted,

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